

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission  
January 9-10, 2014

Chair Susie Knippling called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM at the Holiday Inn Express Convention Room in Fort Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Susie Knippling, John Cooper, Jim Spies, Cathy Peterson, and Gary Jensen were present making a quorum. Commissioner Duane Sather was participating by conference phone. Secretary Jeff Vonk was present along with approximately thirty members of the media, staff, and public. Commissioner Barry Jensen joined the meeting at 1:06 PM.

**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION**

**Approve Minutes**

Chair Knippling called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of the December 5, 2013, meeting or a motion for approval.

Motion by Cooper with second by Gary Jensen TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2013 MEETING AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

**Additional Commissioner Salary Days**

Knippling asked for any additional salary days from the Commissioners. Commissioners Peterson, Gary Jensen, and Barry Jensen each requested four days for the WAFWA Winter meeting last week.

Motion by Spies with second by Cooper TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER SALARY DAYS REQUESTED BY PETERSON, JENSEN, AND JENSEN. Motion carried unanimously.

**License List Requests**

Director Chris Petersen indicated there were no license list requests for Commission consideration.

**License Sales Report**

Director Petersen presented the Final License Sales Totals for calendar year 2013 which makes up half of the current Fiscal Year revenue and sales are currently running behind about \$30,000. The Division of Wildlife budget will be approximately \$1.9 million less than the projected revenue for Fiscal Year 2015. The 2013 resident small game sales were the lowest since 1998 and nonresident small game sales were 19,000 fewer than in 2012.

Chief Scott Simpson provided information showing license sales numbers for residents and nonresidents since 2011 by type, and the revenue impact of the actual 2013 sales from the estimated 2013 license sales. Fishing license sales in 2013 were strong. The 2013 small game sales were down and significantly impacted the wildlife budget.

## **Legislation Update**

Director Petersen indicated that Legislature will convene on January 14 and the Department Budget hearing with the Joint Appropriations Committee is scheduled for February 25 and invited the Commissioners to attend if schedules allowed.

Director Tony Leif indicated the Department would be sponsoring three bills in the 2014 Legislative Session and Director Hofer will provide information about the Good Earth Bonding request during his Good Earth update later on the agenda.

Leif indicated a bill to amend statute to allow for schools, government entities, and charitable or non-profit organizations to conduct events, classes, or programs to teach basic fishing skills without requiring the participants to possess a fishing permit. This will provide additional opportunity for the Rapid City and Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus and other GFP sponsored events available to people of all ages.

Director Leif stated the other Department bill is to increase the nonrefundable application fee for bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and elk licenses from \$5 established in 1987 to \$10 consistent with the consumer price index cost of living since 1987. The increased revenue will continue to be used for big game research and management. The bill will require a two-thirds vote from the legislature.

Cooper asked about the non-meandered waters bill and Leif indicated the tenth version of a draft bill is under consideration by the involved parties and this bill will need to be picked up by a legislator to introduce for legislation.

## **Open Forum**

Chairwoman Knippling opened the floor for discussion from those in attendance on matters of importance to them that may not be on the agenda and no one came forward.

## **Public Hearing**

The Public Hearing began at 2:06 PM and concluded at 2:08 PM. The Public Hearing minutes are included at the end of these minutes.

Secretary Vonk shared with the Commission that Public Hearing Officer Chuck Schlueter just concluded his last Public Hearing for the Commission. Schlueter has decided to retire on January 23 having worked 32 years with the Department.

Director Leif shared that Schlueter was actively involved in the creation and operation of the Outdoor Campus facilities; and has shown exemplary public service providing timely and quality work during his tenure with the Department. Leif presented Schlueter the Division of Wildlife Commemorative Coin.

Chair Knippling called for a recess at 2:15 PM and meeting resumed at 2:36 PM.

## **FINALIZATION**

### **Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season 41:06:56**

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented the proposed Black Hills Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season dates, areas, licenses, requirements, restrictions, and proposed

changes. Kirschenmann shared that the minimum population estimate of bighorn sheep for the Elk Mountain herd is around 96 and approximately 45 for the Rapid City herd.

Chris Hull showed a video of the capture and release of twenty bighorn sheep consisting of three males and seventeen females from the Montana into the South Hell Canyon area to strengthen the genetics of the herd in that area.

Kirschenmann indicated there were no recommended changes to the proposal and public comment supported the auction license.

1. Auction license is valid only in Unit 2.
2. Modify the current boundary description for Unit 1 to only include the geographic area of the Rapid Creek bighorn sheep sub-herd population.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Jim Spies TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING SEASON 41:06:56 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Kirschenmann indicated the Bighorn Sheep Action plan was provided to the Commission last month. Kirschenmann shared it is his belief that goals and the guidelines to achieve those goals are the most important part of any action plan.

Secretary Vonk indicated the Department would like a formal endorsement of the action plan from the Commission. The Wildlife Institute Management's review process suggested an official endorsement of the big game management plans. The Commissioners were asked to review before the March meeting.

## **Petition for Rule Change**

### **Sale/purchase of cottontail rabbits and squirrels**

Director Tony Leif indicated a petition for rule change was sent to Chair Knippling from Becky of Pete's Taxidermy, Inc. of Burke, South Dakota, to allow for the purchase and sale of cottontail rabbits and squirrels similar to pheasants, prairie chicken, grouse, and partridge. The petition meets the criteria as outlined in SDCL 41:11:2 and the Commission may deny the request with a statement of reasons or initiate the rule making process. Leif indicated the Department supports the rule making process and the change could be included in the Public Hearing Notice for the March Commission meeting. Leif would prepare an action sheet and share with the Commissioners prior to the March meeting.

Motion by Cooper with second by Barry Jensen TO PROPOSE A NEW RULE ALLOWING FOR THE SKINS OF COTTONTAIL RABBITS, FOX SQUIRREL, GREY SQUIRREL, AND RED SQUIRREL BE OFFERED FOR SALE OR PURCHASE. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Proposals**

### **Special Buck Licenses**

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented the requirements and restrictions for the East River and West River Special Buck Licenses for 2014 with no recommended changes. Kirschenmann reminded the Commission that these licenses are good only on private land during the regular East River and West River season dates. The numbers of licenses available were determined by a percentage as adopted by the Commission

last year. Residents can apply for both licenses but only receive one per year. Discussion included background of nonresident allocation, timeframe of the process, and distribution of the tags to allow hunters to plan their vacations.

Kirschenmann indicated the Resident West River Special Buck licenses would be 500, the nonresident West River Special Buck licenses would be 500, and the East River resident Special Buck licenses would be 656 with no licenses for nonresidents during the East River season. Kirschenmann responded to a question as to why there are zero nonresident licenses for the East River Special Buck season by explaining it is because there are no licenses available to nonresidents during the first draw in the East River season and this is due to the high demand from resident hunters and the demand remains high. Kirschenmann referenced the history of the Special Buck license as a compromise of the transferrable license and resident demand for licenses. Nonresidents do have the opportunity to obtain a buck license with the archery season and when there are leftover any deer licenses available after the second draw.

Director Leif asked Dr. Longmire and Chair Knippling if the Special Buck Survey results removed from the October Commission Agenda could be presented the next morning under miscellaneous information items. Dr. Longmire was agreeable and permission was granted by Chair Knippling.

Motion by Peterson with second by Cooper TO APPROVE THE NUMBER OF LICENSES AVAILABLE FOR THE SPECIAL BUCK SEASONS. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Lands**

Andy Alban presented the recommended change to clarify in Use of Public Lands prohibiting individuals from having bait stations on Department owned and managed properties. This change will assist with management and law enforcement concerns.

Prohibit bait stations (as defined in ARSD 41:06:04:03) on lands owned by the department and on properties managed and classified by the department as Game Production Areas, State Parks, State Recreation Areas, State Lakeside Use Areas, State Nature Areas, and State Water Access Areas.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Spies TO PROPOSE THE CHANGE TO PUBLIC LANDS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Waters**

Andy Alban presented a recommendation to adjust the dates for a “no boating zone” on Reid Lake in Clark County to allow for additional fall fishing opportunity while maintaining waterfowl hunting during migration in the fall.

Bob Schneider presented a recommendation to adjust the “no wake zone” and “no swimming zone” around the floating breakwater and the waters protected by the breakwater within the bay housing the Spring Creek Marina and boat ramp in Hughes County.

Schneider presented a recommendation to adjust the “no wake zone” on Shadehill Reservoir due to increased boating and beach use and to more accurately describe the “public swimming zone” on the reservoir. This will protect the public, swimmers, and the department owned facilities located there.

1. Amend the dates that boating is prohibited on Reid Lake in Clark County.
2. Amend the existing “no wake zone” and “no swimming zone” at Spring Creek Recreation Area in Hughes County.
3. Amend the boundaries of the existing “public swimming zone” and “no wake zone” on Shadehill Reservoir in Perkins County.

Motion by Peterson with second by Gary Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO PUBLIC WATERS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Motorboats and Watercraft**

Andy Alban presented recommendations to the navigational rules of the road to be consistent with Federal guidelines. This will assist in educating the public about the rules of the road for boating. Discussion included the meaning of the term “safe carrying capacity” and the Commission expressed their desire to specify the horsepower of the motor capacity of the boat; and the weight or number of persons in a boat for overloading capacity.

1. Amend 41:04:05:06 to incorporate the federal navigation rules of the road by reference.
2. Repeal 41:04:05:10-12 due to the incorporation of federal navigation rules by reference.
3. Create a new rule, 41:04:05:19, to address the overloading of boats.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Spies TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO MOTORBOATS AND WATERCRAFT AS RECOMMENDED BY DEPARTMENT WITH COMMISSION CHANGES. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Refuges**

Kirschenmann provided background on the evaluation process taken to review the status and opportunities provided in the current Refuge system indicating this process included landowner participation and public meetings. Kirschenmann shared the different types of refuges are Game Refuges, Game Bird Refuges, and Waterfowl Refuges. Staff developed five recommended changes to refuges in Northeast South Dakota.

Switzer provided specifics on each of the five recommended changes with maps showing the boundaries and changes on each of the refuges.

1. Reclassify the Reid Lake State Game Refuge to Reid Lake Waterfowl Refuge.
2. Reclassify the White Lake State Game Refuge to White Lake Waterfowl Refuge and Modify boundary description.
3. Remove the Stink Lake Waterfowl Refuge.
4. Remove the Dry Lake State Waterfowl Refuge.
5. Remove the Bullhead Lake State Waterfowl Refuge.

Motion by Cooper with second by Gary Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO FIVE REFUGES AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

## **DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **2013 CSP Repair and Maintenance Final Report**

Director Doug Hofer handed out the 2013 Repair and Maintenance report for completed projects at Custer State Park Resorts. The Resort Company is required to expend a sum equal to 5% of their gross revenue for the upkeep of the state owned resort structures within Custer State Park. Hofer outlined the major projects completed in 2013 and noted that Custer Resorts spent more on improvements than required in the concession lease.

### **2013 Revenue and Visitation Report**

Director Hofer presented the End-of-Year Revenue Report for calendar year 2013 showing the increased camping use statewide. Hofer indicated the policy changes to allowing reservations up to a year in advance at Custer State Park resulted in an increase of 7.1% in revenue over 2012. A record number of 279,000 camping units were recorded in 2013. Visitation increased 1.8% over 2012 in State Parks, Recreation Areas, and Nature Areas.

### **Good Earth State Park Update**

Hofer stated the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation completed negotiations and the purchase of twenty acres of property from Louise Evenson on December 31. The twenty acres will facilitate the entrance not only to the Good Earth State Park but the planned Visitors Center. The Foundation plans to transfer this property to the Department and will require Commission action which could happen as soon as the next meeting in March.

Director Hofer was happy to share that a generous donor came forward and has entered into an agreement with the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation to donate \$80,000 a year for 25 years for the development of the Good Earth State Park. The Foundation Board, the Parks Division, and the donor have been developing a plan to best utilize this \$2 million donation. The Department has introduced House Bill 1013 to allow for the sale of bonds through the South Dakota Building Authority to utilize the gift and facilitate the construction of the Good Earth State Park Visitors Center.

## **DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

### **Private Shooting Preserve Permit Stipulation Agreement Consent Order**

Andy Alban provided background information about 57 illegally killed deer in 2011 involving several individuals facing federal and state charges. This is an ongoing case and details cannot be shared at this time. However, John Chauncey, a Private Shooting Preserve Operator entered a guilty plea.

Director Leif provided the Stipulation and Consent Decree requiring Chauncey not operate a shooting preserve for five years. Administrative rule requires Commission action to revoke Chauncey's preserve operator's permit with the Department as stated in the Consent Order. Leif respectfully requested the Commission approve the Stipulation and Consent Decree and authorize Chair Knippling issue the Consent Order.

Motion by Cooper with second by Gary Jensen TO APPROVE THE STIPULATION AND CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF CONSENT DECREE AND

AUTHORIZE CHAIR KNIPPLING TO SIGN THE CONSENT ORDER AS PRESENTED (Appendix A and B). Motion carried unanimously.

### **Brule County Land Addition to Chain Lakes GPA**

Paul Coughlin presented Resolution 14-01 authorizing the Department to complete negotiation for the purchase of 160 acres from Gregory W. King, Luke A. Bryner, and Neil A Brown. The purchase price would be \$160,000 and the property would be added to and used as a game production area in Southeast Brule County known as the Chain Lakes GPA. Funding for this will come from the Tony Dean's Acres NAWCA grant with expected closing in February. Coughlin recommended the Commission approve the resolution.

Motion by Cooper with second by Gary Jensen TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 14-01 AS PRESENTED (Appendix C). Motion carried unanimously.

### **Land acquisition updates**

Coughlin provided information about another possible Tony Dean Acres purchase in Moody County that is currently in the appraisal phase.

### **Development and use of urban fisheries**

Dave Lucchesi presented a power point indicating there are 31 urban lakes located East River and twelve lakes in West River that are managed as urban fisheries by the Department. Lucchesi provided the management objectives for urban lakes, specific details on different lakes, and future plans for managing urban fisheries.

### **Mountain Lion Hunting Season update**

Andy Lindbloom indicated the mountain lion season started on December 26, 2013, and currently eight lions have been harvested. Licenses sold to date are 2,600 and there are 27 radio collared lions roaming around.

Chair Knippling called for a recess at 5:06 PM with meeting to resume at 8:30 AM on the next morning. Meeting resumed at 8:29 AM with Commissioners Knippling, Cooper, Peterson, Jensen, Spies, and Jensen present. Commissioner Sather did not join by phone. Secretary Vonk along with approximately twenty public, staff, and media were present.

### **Pheasant Habitat Summit update**

Director Leif stated he was pleasantly surprised with approximately 600 individuals registered to attend the Governor's Pheasant Habitat Summit held on December 6, 2013. More than 400 people attended the Summit in spite of the cold weather and snow. Ten days prior the Summit an announcement indicating that the Summit would be webcast may have kept a few away.

Chief Simpson indicated the costs incurred for the Summit were approximately \$13,000 not including staff time for planning or the fifty staff present at the Summit to insure the event ran smoothly. The SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation, Millborn Seeds, SD Retailers, Truax Company, Inc., the SD Municipal League Five organizations sponsored the event at \$1,000 each. Portfolios were provided at no charge to attendees

sponsored by Pheasants Forever, who also split the \$8,000 cost making the cost of the Department approximately \$4,000.

Leif indicated the important message is what happens now. The Working Group will have a lot of ideas to work through from the twenty breakout sessions. There are twenty pages of ideas posted on the GFP Website. Ten areas were identified and a follow up questionnaire will go to participants this week asking: "What is the one thing you believe is most important?" Leif indicated there was a good cross section of participants that attended the summit which included legislators, landowners, agricultural people, sportsmen, and sportsmen groups.

The Working Group was appointed by the Governor and his staff and was announced earlier this week. Pam Roberts will chair the thirteen member group that will meet through June with a report in July of 2014.

### **WMI Big Game Action Plan update**

The Commissioners received the Big Game Review Action Plan from WMI in chronological order. Director Tony Leif and Chief Tom Kirschenmann provided information on the eight items with a due date of December 2013. Discussion included clarification of the mountain lion population objective; staff review in the western part of the state for big game management; staff evaluation of time; prioritization and resources for big game management and developing management plans; review of big game management plans; and strengthen interaction/communication between leadership and field staff regarding the Commission recommendation process to include discussion about the issues, the direction the issues are going, and the leadership philosophy on the issue.

### **Elk management opinion survey results**

Chief Kirschenmann indicated this survey was a good opportunity to begin drafting a good management plan and to solidify what the public is thinking. Dr. Longmire shared key results indicating the final report will come later.

Dr. Cynthia Longmire provided background on the 12-page mail survey containing 36 questions with as many as 62 possible responses in the questionnaire. The survey was sent to 2,000 randomly selected elk applicants and 2,134 randomly selected landowners in the nine counties that have an elk unit. Responses were received from 1,259 elk applicants and 1,155 landowners and analysis show an area landowner group and other landowners.

Those surveyed were asked about the current elk population, their elk hunting experience, presence of elk on the landowners' property, depredation issues, and the elk hunting season structure and number of licenses available.

### **Deer license refunds due to EHD**

Chief Kirschenmann indicated that most of the 1,077 licenses returned were antlerless licenses for a total of 2,160 tags due to EHD concerns in Bennett, Corson, Perkins, Sanborn, and Todd Counties were antlerless tags. The licenses returned were considerably fewer than the 2,268 licenses for 4,467 tags in 2012.

### **Review of bow hunting requirement rules**

Chief Scott Simpson shared conversations began with archery groups to discuss rule changes as part of the rules reduction process. The South Dakota Bowhunters Association, the Archery Association, and the National Field Archery Association were asked for feedback about the current regulations. Discussion ensued about the history of the crossbow issue.

### **DOW Annual Report**

Chief Kirschenmann indicated the three handouts: The Division of Wildlife 2013 Annual Report, The Wildlife Damage Management Program Report, and the Private Lands Habitat and Access Program Summary-2013 were developed not only as a report for the Division but to assist during the upcoming Legislative Session.

### **Miscellaneous updates**

#### **Special Buck Survey**

Dr. Cindy Longmire indicated a survey was conducted where landowners were called and asked if specifically named individual asked to hunt their property. The East River call list had 220 landowners and 269 applicants were verified to have contacted the landowner for 97%. The West River call list had 242 landowners and 608 applicants had received landowner permission for 93%.

Kirschenmann indicated that an Elk Stakeholder Group is being formed to bring all the key stakeholders together while developing a management plan. This is a diverse group and includes the US Forest Service, SD Department of Agriculture, the SD Wildlife Federation, the Black Hills Sportsmen Club, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc., the South Dakota Cattleman and Stockgrowers, the Spearfish Grazing Association, the Wind Cave National Park, and the GFP Regional Advisory Panels. The group will meet 2-3 times beginning in next few weeks. Dr. Longmire will share the survey information and discussion will include the future of the elk population and depredation concerns before making recommendations at the March Commission meeting. The last meeting of group will provide opportunity for them review management plan before approval. Kirschenmann requested there be a representative from the Commission on the Stakeholder group and invited all Commissioners to attend the meetings. Gary Jensen indicated he would be happy to participate. Kirschenmann will provide meeting information as it becomes available.

### **2014 Election of Officers**

Chairwoman Knippling stated the Commissioners have decided to wait until the next meeting to elect officers. Knippling stated how quickly the eight years serving on the Commission had passed and thanked everyone for their assistance. She will miss the people and will not miss the issues.

### **Adjourn**

Motion by Cooper with second by Spies to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:31 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary

Appendix C

**RESOLUTION 14 - 01**

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) has expressed an interest in acquiring real property presently owned by Gregory W. King, 264 State Road Hill, Smithton, PA 15479; Luke A. Bryner, 518 Reservoir Road, Vanderbilt, PA 15486; and Neil A. Brown, Box 85, Acme, PA 15610, which property is described as:

S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 6 - Township 101 North, Range 68 West of the 5th P.M., in Brule County, State of South Dakota, containing 157.40 acres, more or less, and hereafter referred to as KING-BRYNER-BROWN PROPERTY; and

WHEREAS, said property is to be acquired by and utilized by GFP as a Game Production Area; and

WHEREAS, SDCL 41-4-1.1 requires that before GFP acquires and purchases property, GFP must notify owners of land located adjacent to the property sought to be acquired by publishing notice of the same once in each legal newspaper of the county in which the property to be purchased is located; and

WHEREAS, GFP has published the required legal notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of action by the Commission authorizing the intended purchases, which notice included the time and location of the meeting at which Commission action is expected and by giving notice of instructions for presenting oral and written comments to the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed any and all comments that may have been received relative to the intended purchase and after consideration of the same, the Commission approves the purchase of said property for use as a Game Production Area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that GFP is authorized to complete negotiations for the purchase of the KING-BRYNER-BROWN PROPERTY and execute and consummate an agreement with Gregory W. King, Luke A. Bryner, and Neil A. Brown, which is acceptable to GFP to acquire by purchase, at the price of \$160,000.00, the KING-BRYNER-BROWN PROPERTY for use as a Game Production Area.

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission  
January 9, 2014

Public Hearing Officer Chuck Schlueter began the Public Hearing at 2:06 PM by indicating seventeen emails were received -- all in support of the bighorn sheep auction tag.. Schlueter invited anyone in the room wishing to comment on the Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season listed under Finalization to approach the microphone and provide their name and address on the sign-in sheet and share their comments with the Commission.

No comments received from those in attendance and all written comments are reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes.

The public hearing concluded at 2:08 PM.

Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season written comments:

Mike McKnight President of the South Dakota Bowhunters emailed: "...we would once again wholeheartedly support a bighorn auction tag for 2014. Thank you."

Dana R. Rogers of Box Elder, SD, emailed: "I am wholeheartedly in support of continuing the single auction tag each year..."

Matt Rippentrop of Oelrichs, SD, emailed: "I would like to encourage you to pass the 2014 SD bighorn sheep auction tag for Custer County..."

Darrel Jones of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I am sending this email in favor of granting an auction tag for the 2014 Custer County Bighorn Sheep season..."

Wayne Henderson of Lodgepole, SD, emailed: "Just wanted you folks to know how much I appreciated your making a sheep tag available last year and am all in favor of a tag this year in Custer state park..."

Micah Mauney of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I am in favor of the SD Bighorn Sheep auction tag for Custer County..."

Keith Winter of Hill City, SD, emailed: "I wanted to take a second to email you and let you know that I am in support of the Bighorn Auction tag!..."

Arnie & Lori Goldade of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: "Just want you all to know we support the Bighorn Sheep Auction Tag!..."

Spencer Vaa of Brookings, SD, emailed: "I support the bighorn sheep auction tag for Unit 2 in the Black Hills..."

Roger DeKok of Mount Vernon, SD, emailed: "...I 100% believe in the support for the Auction Tag..."

Jim Scull of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "I would express my encouragement to continue this program [Bighorn sheep auction tag] to raise money to put sheep in the Black Hills and to maintain them. Funding will be absolutely necessary to achieve the goals and this is a very painless way to secure this designated funding..."

Dr. Shannon DeBoer of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: "I am writing this email to express my support for the auction tag for the bighorn sheep..."

Dennis Micko of Estelline, SD, emailed: "I am writing to ask for your support in continuing the process of auctioning off one Bighorn sheep tag to help finance the continued research and restoration of the Bighorn sheep herd in the Black Hills..."

Scott Vander Meulen of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I would like to take a minute to ask for your continued support of the South Dakota Bighorn Sheep Auction Tag..."

Dr. George Jenter of Sturgis, SD, emailed: "Please support the 2014 South Dakota Bighorn Sheep Auction tag..."

Glenn Eimers of White Lake, SD, emailed: "I am in favor of South Dakota's bighorn sheep auction tag!..."

Donald L. Massa, DDS, of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: "I would like to support the proposed auction tag for the upcoming Bighorn sheep season..."

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary